



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

OFFICE OF WATER

Dear Senator Cantwell:

Thank you for your October 11, 2017, letter to President Trump regarding the EPA's proposal to withdraw the July 2014 Clean Water Act Section 404(c) Proposed Determination regarding the Pebble deposit in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed. As the EPA's Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your letter on the President's behalf.

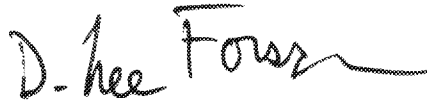
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Again, thank you for your helpful letter. We have uploaded your comments to the public docket, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-R10-OW-2017-0369, in <http://www.regulations.gov>. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Denis Borum of EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [Borum.Denis@epa.gov](mailto:Borum.Denis@epa.gov) or (202) 564-4836.

Sincerely,

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D. Lee Forsgren  
Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Thank you for your October 11, 2017, letter to President Trump regarding the EPA's proposal to withdraw the July 2014 Clean Water Act Section 404(c) Proposed Determination regarding the Pebble deposit in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed. As the EPA's Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your letter on the President's behalf.

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Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

Thank you for your October 11, 2017, letter to President Trump regarding the EPA's proposal to withdraw the July 2014 Clean Water Act Section 404(c) Proposed Determination regarding the Pebble deposit in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed. As the EPA's Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your letter on the President's behalf.

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D. Lee Forsgren  
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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Jared Huffman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Huffman:

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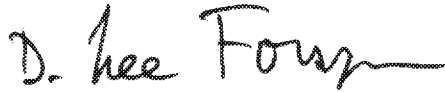
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D. Lee Forsgren  
Deputy Assistant Administrator





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Bonamici:

Thank you for your October 11, 2017, letter to President Trump regarding the EPA's proposal to withdraw the July 2014 Clean Water Act Section 404(c) Proposed Determination regarding the Pebble deposit in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed. As the EPA's Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your letter on the President's behalf.

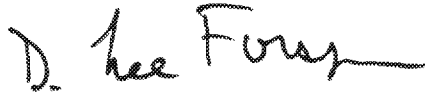
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D. Lee Forsgren  
Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Blumenauer:

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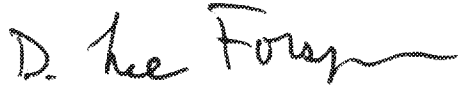
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Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Patty Murray  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

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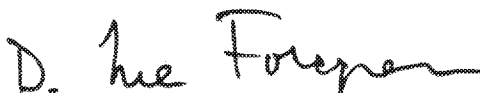
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D. Lee Forsgren  
Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Merkley:

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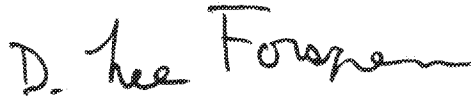
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D. Lee Forsgren  
Deputy Assistant Administrator





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Harris:

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
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FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Adam Smith  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Smith:

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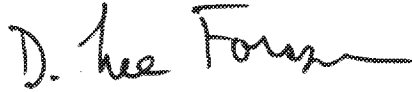
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OFFICE OF WATER

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Dear Congressman Heck:

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I understand your concerns regarding EPA's proposal to withdraw the 2014 Proposed Determination. Your letter highlights the ecological, economic, and subsistence importance of the Bristol Bay watershed in supporting the largest sockeye salmon fishery and one of the largest Chinook fisheries in the world. You outlined concerns regarding the construction and operation of a mine at the Pebble deposit including the potential for release of toxic leachate to the watershed, as well as the destruction and degradation of salmon-supporting streams and wetlands. You also reference the economic significance of the Bristol Bay fisheries to Alaska, west coast states, and the nation.

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Again, thank you for your helpful letter. We have uploaded your comments to the public docket, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-R10-OW-2017-0369, in <http://www.regulations.gov>. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Denis Borum of EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [Borum.Denis@epa.gov](mailto:Borum.Denis@epa.gov) or (202) 564-4836.

Sincerely,

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D. Lee Forsgren  
Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Barbara Lee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lee:

Thank you for your October 11, 2017, letter to President Trump regarding the EPA's proposal to withdraw the July 2014 Clean Water Act Section 404(c) Proposed Determination regarding the Pebble deposit in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed. As the EPA's Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your letter on the President's behalf.

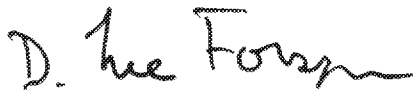
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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Grace F. Napolitano  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Napolitano:

Thank you for your October 11, 2017, letter to President Trump regarding the EPA's proposal to withdraw the July 2014 Clean Water Act Section 404(c) Proposed Determination regarding the Pebble deposit in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed. As the EPA's Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your letter on the President's behalf.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Jackie Speier  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Speier:

Thank you for your October 11, 2017, letter to President Trump regarding the EPA's proposal to withdraw the July 2014 Clean Water Act Section 404(c) Proposed Determination regarding the Pebble deposit in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed. As the EPA's Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your letter on the President's behalf.

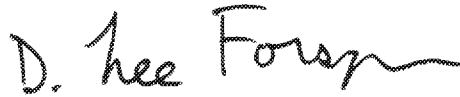
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D. Lee Forsgren  
Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Eshoo:

Thank you for your October 11, 2017, letter to President Trump regarding the EPA's proposal to withdraw the July 2014 Clean Water Act Section 404(c) Proposed Determination regarding the Pebble deposit in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed. As the EPA's Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your letter on the President's behalf.


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D. Lee Forsgren  
Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable William R. Keating  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Keating:

Thank you for your October 11, 2017, letter to President Trump regarding the EPA's proposal to withdraw the July 2014 Clean Water Act Section 404(c) Proposed Determination regarding the Pebble deposit in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed. As the EPA's Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your letter on the President's behalf.

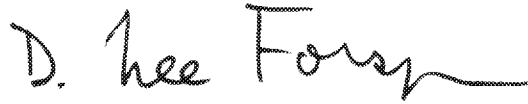
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D. Lee Forsgren  
Deputy Assistant Administrator





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Holmes Norton:

Thank you for your October 11, 2017, letter to President Trump regarding the EPA's proposal to withdraw the July 2014 Clean Water Act Section 404(c) Proposed Determination regarding the Pebble deposit in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed. As the EPA's Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your letter on the President's behalf.

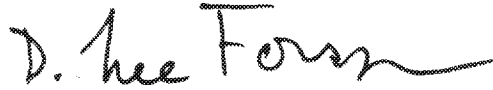
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Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Pramila Jayapal  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Jayapal:

Thank you for your October 11, 2017, letter to President Trump regarding the EPA's proposal to withdraw the July 2014 Clean Water Act Section 404(c) Proposed Determination regarding the Pebble deposit in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed. As the EPA's Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your letter on the President's behalf.

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D. Lee Forsgren  
Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Dwight Evans  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Evans:

Thank you for your October 11, 2017, letter to President Trump regarding the EPA's proposal to withdraw the July 2014 Clean Water Act Section 404(c) Proposed Determination regarding the Pebble deposit in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed. As the EPA's Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your letter on the President's behalf.

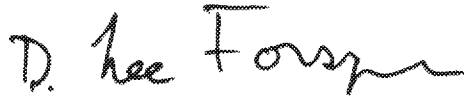
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Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lofgren:

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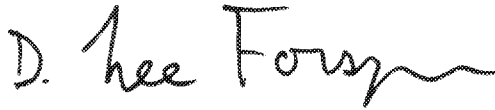
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D. Lee Forsgren  
Deputy Assistant Administrator





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Emanuel Cleaver  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cleaver:

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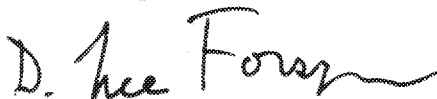
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Sincerely,

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D. Lee Forsgren  
Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Derek Kilmer  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kilmer:

Thank you for your October 11, 2017, letter to President Trump regarding the EPA's proposal to withdraw the July 2014 Clean Water Act Section 404(c) Proposed Determination regarding the Pebble deposit in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed. As the EPA's Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your letter on the President's behalf.

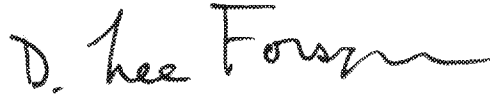
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Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Judy Chu  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Chu:

Thank you for your October 11, 2017, letter to President Trump regarding the EPA's proposal to withdraw the July 2014 Clean Water Act Section 404(c) Proposed Determination regarding the Pebble deposit in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed. As the EPA's Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your letter on the President's behalf.

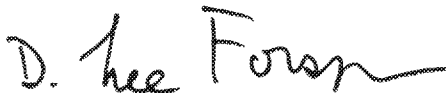
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Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Alan Lowenthal  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lowenthal:

Thank you for your October 11, 2017, letter to President Trump regarding the EPA's proposal to withdraw the July 2014 Clean Water Act Section 404(c) Proposed Determination regarding the Pebble deposit in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed. As the EPA's Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your letter on the President's behalf.

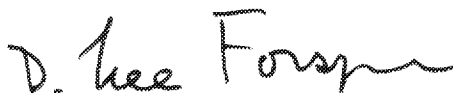
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D. Lee Forsgren  
Deputy Assistant Administrator





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman DeFazio:

Thank you for your October 11, 2017, letter to President Trump regarding the EPA's proposal to withdraw the July 2014 Clean Water Act Section 404(c) Proposed Determination regarding the Pebble deposit in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed. As the EPA's Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your letter on the President's behalf.

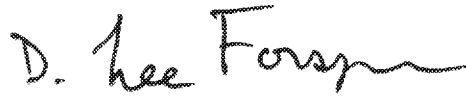
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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Jamie Raskin  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Raskin:

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D. Lee Forsgren  
Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Rick Larsen  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Larsen:

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman DeSaulnier:

Thank you for your October 11, 2017, letter to President Trump regarding the EPA's proposal to withdraw the July 2014 Clean Water Act Section 404(c) Proposed Determination regarding the Pebble deposit in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed. As the EPA's Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your letter on the President's behalf.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

The Honorable Ro Khanna  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICE OF WATER

Dear Congressman Khanna:

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Jerry McNerney  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McNerney:

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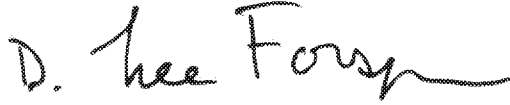
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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

The Honorable Suzan K. DelBene  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICE OF WATER

Dear Congresswoman DelBene:

Thank you for your October 11, 2017, letter to President Trump regarding the EPA's proposal to withdraw the July 2014 Clean Water Act Section 404(c) Proposed Determination regarding the Pebble deposit in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed. As the EPA's Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your letter on the President's behalf.

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Again, thank you for your helpful letter. We have uploaded your comments to the public docket, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-R10-OW-2017-0369, in <http://www.regulations.gov>. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Denis Borum of EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [Borum.Denis@epa.gov](mailto:Borum.Denis@epa.gov) or (202) 564-4836.

Sincerely,

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D. Lee Forsgren  
Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Jimmy Panetta  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Panetta:

Thank you for your October 11, 2017, letter to President Trump regarding the EPA's proposal to withdraw the July 2014 Clean Water Act Section 404(c) Proposed Determination regarding the Pebble deposit in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed. As the EPA's Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your letter on the President's behalf.

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D. Lee Forsgren  
Deputy Assistant Administrator





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

The Honorable Norma J. Torres  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICE OF WATER

Dear Congresswoman Torres:

Thank you for your October 11, 2017, letter to President Trump regarding the EPA's proposal to withdraw the July 2014 Clean Water Act Section 404(c) Proposed Determination regarding the Pebble deposit in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed. As the EPA's Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your letter on the President's behalf.


I understand your concerns regarding EPA's proposal to withdraw the 2014 Proposed Determination. Your letter highlights the ecological, economic, and subsistence importance of the Bristol Bay watershed in supporting the largest sockeye salmon fishery and one of the largest Chinook fisheries in the world. You outlined concerns regarding the construction and operation of a mine at the Pebble deposit including the potential for release of toxic leachate to the watershed, as well as the destruction and degradation of salmon-supporting streams and wetlands. You also reference the economic significance of the Bristol Bay fisheries to Alaska, west coast states, and the nation.

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D. Lee Forsgren  
Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Ted W. Lieu  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lieu:

Thank you for your October 11, 2017, letter to President Trump regarding the EPA's proposal to withdraw the July 2014 Clean Water Act Section 404(c) Proposed Determination regarding the Pebble deposit in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed. As the EPA's Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your letter on the President's behalf.

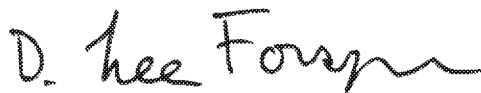
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D. Lee Forsgren  
Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Julia Brownley  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Brownley:

Thank you for your October 11, 2017, letter to President Trump regarding the EPA's proposal to withdraw the July 2014 Clean Water Act Section 404(c) Proposed Determination regarding the Pebble deposit in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed. As the EPA's Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your letter on the President's behalf.

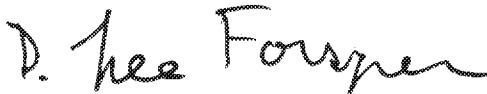
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D. Lee Forsgren  
Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable John Garamendi  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Garamendi:

Thank you for your October 11, 2017, letter to President Trump regarding the EPA's proposal to withdraw the July 2014 Clean Water Act Section 404(c) Proposed Determination regarding the Pebble deposit in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed. As the EPA's Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your letter on the President's behalf.

I understand your concerns regarding EPA's proposal to withdraw the 2014 Proposed Determination. Your letter highlights the ecological, economic, and subsistence importance of the Bristol Bay watershed in supporting the largest sockeye salmon fishery and one of the largest Chinook fisheries in the world. You outlined concerns regarding the construction and operation of a mine at the Pebble deposit including the potential for release of toxic leachate to the watershed, as well as the destruction and degradation of salmon-supporting streams and wetlands. You also reference the economic significance of the Bristol Bay fisheries to Alaska, west coast states, and the nation.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Kurt Schrader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Schrader:

Thank you for your October 11, 2017, letter to President Trump regarding the EPA's proposal to withdraw the July 2014 Clean Water Act Section 404(c) Proposed Determination regarding the Pebble deposit in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed. As the EPA's Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your letter on the President's behalf.

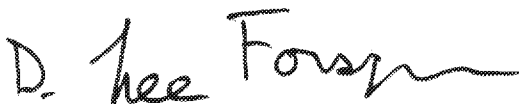
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D. Lee Forsgren  
Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Donald S. Beyer  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Beyer:

Thank you for your October 11, 2017, letter to President Trump regarding the EPA's proposal to withdraw the July 2014 Clean Water Act Section 404(c) Proposed Determination regarding the Pebble deposit in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed. As the EPA's Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your letter on the President's behalf.

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D. Lee Forsgren  
Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Doris Matsui  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Matsui:

Thank you for your October 11, 2017, letter to President Trump regarding the EPA's proposal to withdraw the July 2014 Clean Water Act Section 404(c) Proposed Determination regarding the Pebble deposit in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed. As the EPA's Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your letter on the President's behalf.

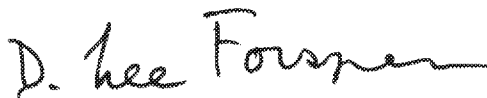
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D. Lee Forsgren  
Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

The Honorable Linda T. Sanchez  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICE OF WATER

Dear Congresswoman Sanchez:

Thank you for your October 11, 2017, letter to President Trump regarding the EPA's proposal to withdraw the July 2014 Clean Water Act Section 404(c) Proposed Determination regarding the Pebble deposit in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed. As the EPA's Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your letter on the President's behalf.

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D. Lee Forsgren  
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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Edward J. Markey  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

Thank you for your October 11, 2017, letter to President Trump regarding the EPA's proposal to withdraw the July 2014 Clean Water Act Section 404(c) Proposed Determination regarding the Pebble deposit in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed. As the EPA's Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your letter on the President's behalf.

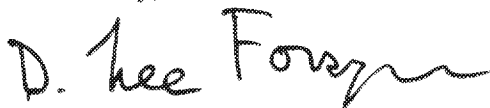
I understand your concerns regarding EPA's proposal to withdraw the 2014 Proposed Determination. Your letter highlights the ecological, economic, and subsistence importance of the Bristol Bay watershed in supporting the largest sockeye salmon fishery and one of the largest Chinook fisheries in the world. You outlined concerns regarding the construction and operation of a mine at the Pebble deposit including the potential for release of toxic leachate to the watershed, as well as the destruction and degradation of salmon-supporting streams and wetlands. You also reference the economic significance of the Bristol Bay fisheries to Alaska, west coast states, and the nation.

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After careful consideration of comments received in response to the *Federal Register* notice and during numerous public meetings and two public hearings in Alaska, EPA Administrator Pruitt announced on January 26<sup>th</sup> his decision to suspend the Agency's process to withdraw proposed Clean Water Act restrictions, leaving them in place while we solicit more information on the potential mine's impact (as laid out in their December 2017 permit application) on the region's world-class fisheries and natural resources. This decision neither deters nor derails the application process of Pebble Limited Partnership's proposed project. The project proponents continue to enjoy the protection of due process and the right to proceed. However, their permit application must clear a high bar, because EPA believes the risk to the Bristol Bay watershed and its critical resources may prove to be unacceptable. EPA intends to solicit additional public comment on the impact of the mining application on the existing proposed determination to better inform the permit review.

Again, thank you for your helpful letter. We have uploaded your comments to the public docket, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-R10-OW-2017-0369, in <http://www.regulations.gov>. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Denis Borum of EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [Borum.Denis@epa.gov](mailto:Borum.Denis@epa.gov) or (202) 564-4836.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Lee Forsgren". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

D. Lee Forsgren  
Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Salud O. Carbajal  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Carbajal:

Thank you for your October 11, 2017, letter to President Trump regarding the EPA's proposal to withdraw the July 2014 Clean Water Act Section 404(c) Proposed Determination regarding the Pebble deposit in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed. As the EPA's Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your letter on the President's behalf.

I understand your concerns regarding EPA's proposal to withdraw the 2014 Proposed Determination. Your letter highlights the ecological, economic, and subsistence importance of the Bristol Bay watershed in supporting the largest sockeye salmon fishery and one of the largest Chinook fisheries in the world. You outlined concerns regarding the construction and operation of a mine at the Pebble deposit including the potential for release of toxic leachate to the watershed, as well as the destruction and degradation of salmon-supporting streams and wetlands. You also reference the economic significance of the Bristol Bay fisheries to Alaska, west coast states, and the nation.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Lee Forsgren", with a stylized flourish at the end.

D. Lee Forsgren  
Deputy Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB - 8 2018

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Whitehouse:

Thank you for your October 11, 2017, letter to President Trump regarding the EPA's proposal to withdraw the July 2014 Clean Water Act Section 404(c) Proposed Determination regarding the Pebble deposit in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed. As the EPA's Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your letter on the President's behalf.

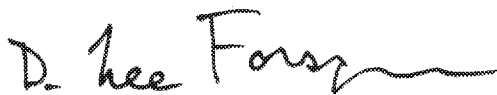
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Lee Forsgren". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

D. Lee Forsgren  
Deputy Assistant Administrator